

College reimagined | A sanctuary for all | Perpers help Lynn stay focused on the future

LYNN

Annual edition 2015



New university center
will transform the
heart of campus

Gift from Christine E. Lynn
is the largest in university history

The future is now.



Fast-forward: Lynn 2020 to be completed early



In the annual State of the University address on Oct. 21, I capped a long list of accomplishments with a surprise announcement: a lead gift by Board of Trustees Chair Christine E. Lynn to construct a new university center.

Mrs. Lynn's gift, coming just weeks after the announcement of another historic gift from Mary Perper to construct the Mary Ann and Harold Perper Residence Hall, is the crowning achievement signaling the early completion of *Lynn 2020*, Lynn University's strategic plan.

Campus growth

Lynn again enrolled a record class, with 685 new undergraduate students and 308 new graduate students.

Lynn completed construction of Snyder Sanctuary, a multi-faith structure for contemplation and spiritual exploration made possible by donors Jamie S. and Stephen F. Snyder, board of trustees vice chairman. The sanctuary will be dedicated on Nov. 12. (See feature story on page 26.)

Longtime and generous Lynn friend Mary Perper made possible the Mary Ann and Harold Perper Intramural Field, which was dedicated Oct. 1, and the future Mary Ann and Harold Perper Residence Hall, to be completed in 2017. (See feature story on page 30.)

Board of Trustees Chair Christine E. Lynn's lead gift to construct the Christine E. Lynn University Center is the latest in a lifetime of generosity to our institution, including endowing and naming the university. The lynchpin in completing the *Lynn 2020* strategic plan, the center is expected to be completed in 2018—two years prior to the plan's targeted completion year of 2020. (See feature story on page 12.)

Technology and curriculum innovation

The new iLynn program provides a private university experience for a state university price. The iPad-powered bachelor's degree is designed for students with work, family and other obligations, allowing them to take classes online, on campus or both. (See feature story on page 22.)

Lynn is now a 100 percent iPad campus, with all students using the devices in their learning. Lynn's innovative use of Apple technology earned designation as an Apple Distinguished School.

The new Lynn University Digital Press saves students money and time. Lynn faculty-written textbooks are expected to grow to 40 this fall. (See story on page 4.)

Students in the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership program were the first to collaboratively conduct research and write their dissertation, which included re-creating Lynn's doctoral handbook as an e-book for future Ed.D. students. (See story on page 5.)

Lynn was recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the "Most Innovative Colleges" in the country. In addition, *NBC Nightly News*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Inside Higher Ed* and others featured Lynn's innovative use of technology.

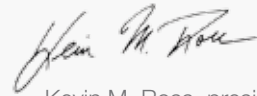
Lynn is piloting a career prep course, Future Leaders of Tomorrow, with the Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce. Ten students participated during 2015 January Term, meeting and networking with top executives at local companies. As a result, five students obtained internships and one student gained a full-time job.

Launched in February 2006, the plan outlined far-reaching initiatives in academics, campus construction, enrollment management and other critical areas in order for Lynn to realize an ambitious vision: to be recognized as one of the most innovative, international and individualized small universities in America.

Since then, transformation has swept the campus—from the nationally recognized Dialogues core curriculum and iPad initiative to major campus enhancements, including the Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center,

the Mohammed Indimi International Business Center, the Snyder Sanctuary, the Perper Tennis Complex, Bobby Campbell Stadium, Mary Ann and Harold Perper Intramural Field and new entrances funded by Robert Sheetz.

I'm pleased to share highlights of our accomplishments below. Thank you for your contributions in helping us achieve these milestones.



Kevin M. Ross, president

Athletics

The men's soccer team won Lynn's 23rd national championship. Men's and women's' golf, women's tennis and baseball won regional titles and competed in national tournaments. (Read more about the Fighting Knights' momentous year on page 38.)

Lynn University hired Devin Crosby as its seventh athletic director. Formerly, he was deputy athletics director at Kent State University. (Read an interview with Crosby on page 34.)

Lynn University revealed a new Fighting Knights mascot, Lance, personifying Lynn athletics' tradition of spirit, service and strength.

Industry accolades

Lynn University was named in *U.S. News and World Report's* 2015 Best Online Programs and Top 5 Most International Colleges.

Mike Petroski, director of faculty development and academic assessment, was named an Apple Distinguished Educator. (See story on page 6.)

The Mohammed Indimi International Business Center received an Award of Merit (Institutional Architecture category) from the Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Gensler, general contractor Gerrits Construction and consultants Buro Happold collaborated on the project.

***Princeton Review* named Lynn as one of the most green colleges.** (See story on page 9.)

To watch a video of the State of the University address, visit lynn.edu/sotu.

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On campus

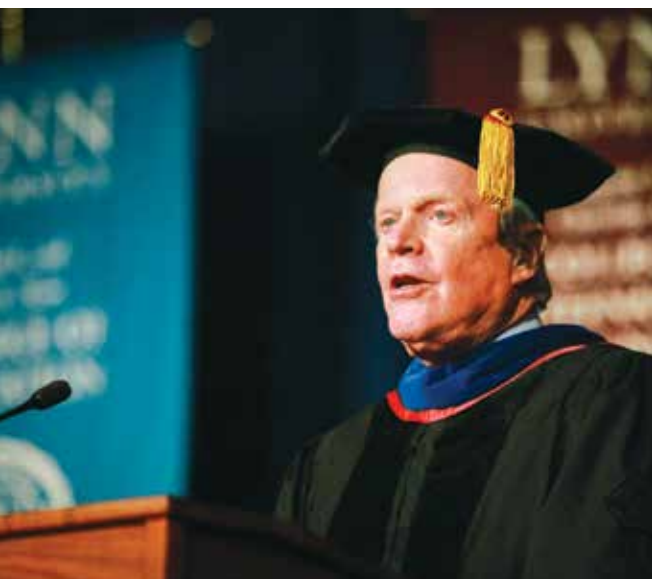
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Annual edition 2015

View our magazine online
at lynnmagazine.com.

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Lynn is produced for alumni, parents and friends by the Office of Marketing and Communication at

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Lynn University Digital Press: A new chapter

The recently launched Lynn University Digital Press is the only university press in Florida, and one of a few nationally, that's custom designed for the Apple ecosystem and solely focused on the production of faculty-written e-books.

Beginning with seven e-books in 2013, Lynn faculty members expect to have more than 40 this fall. The books are embedded into iTunes U courses, and students download them for free.

"The model of having faculty write and create the texts they use in class is an innovation that not only reduces textbook costs for students, but also increases faculty and student engagement with the content," says Chris Boniforti, Lynn's CIO.

Overseen by Amy Filiatreau, Lynn Library director, the digital press facilitates the publishing process by allowing faculty to focus on what they do best—creating engaging content—while other experts provide editing, design and copyright compliance.

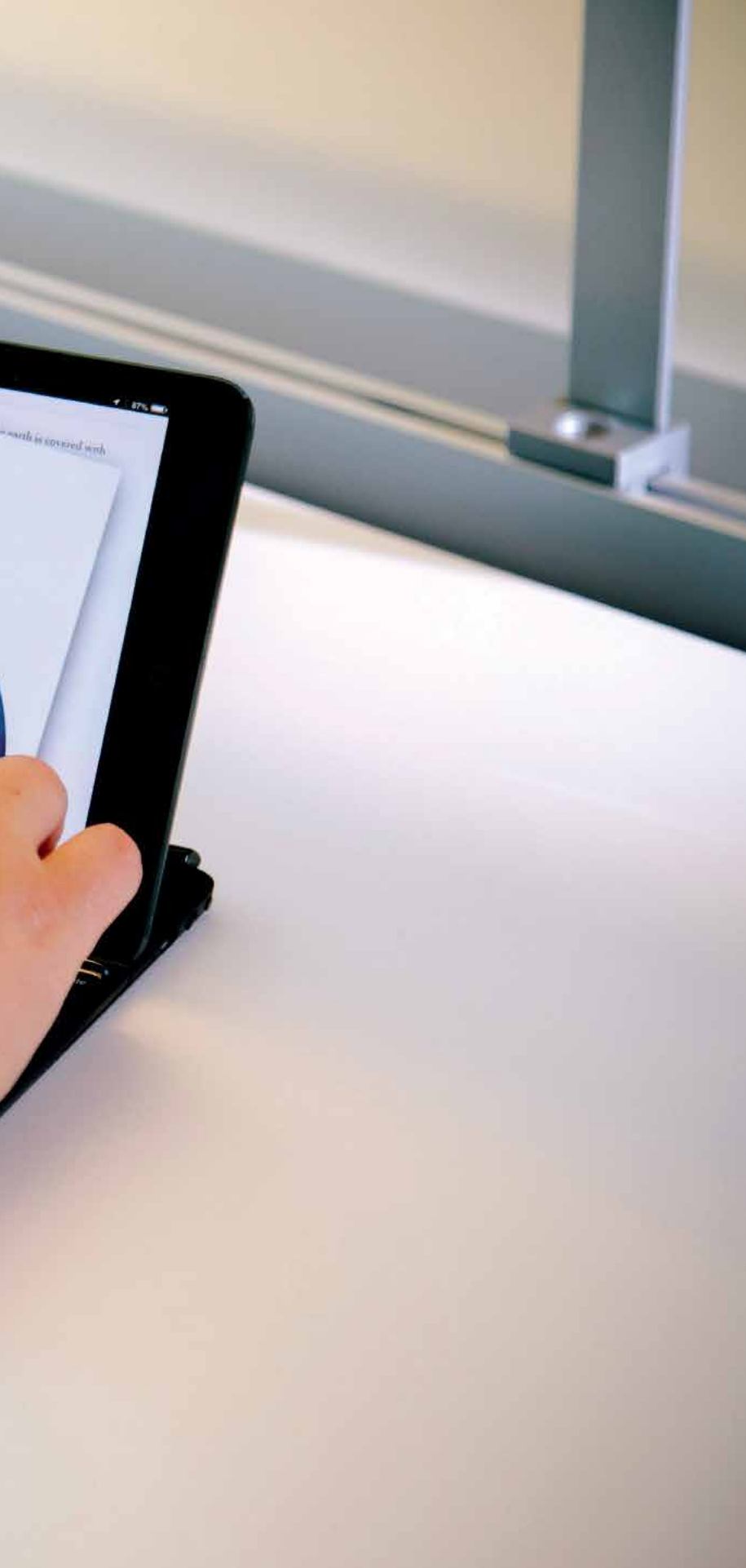
By creating their own textbooks, faculty can concentrate on what they view as essential aspects of a course and have a deep connection to, and thorough knowledge of, the content.

Students gain a rich, multi-sensory experience with the content, as opposed to merely reading words on a traditional printed page. The content and tone of the faculty-authored e-books are geared specifically for the Lynn student and the Lynn curriculum, increasing the odds for college success.

The digital press is expected to also significantly enhance Lynn's sustainability efforts by replacing traditional printing, shipping and inventory practices with immediate access to digital content.

Long-term plans include an outside peer review process and, possibly, acceptance of outside submissions.





Ed.D. students pioneer collaboration

Lynn's innovative use of technology is enhancing teaching and learning, including at the doctoral level.

Eleven students in Lynn's Ed.D. in Educational Leadership program were the first to collaboratively conduct research and write the Carnegie Project on Education Doctorate (CPED) dissertation, which included re-creating Lynn's doctoral handbook as an e-book for future Ed.D. students.

The project was executed under the direction of Korynne Taylor-Dunlop, education professor, with the students of Cohort 5 as pioneers.

"Everybody in our cohort is a future education leader who's stepping up to a different role," says Ed.D. student Jerome Vickers. "Now, they can say, 'I created this book in my doctoral program. Why don't I do something like this for my school or my district?' That's the educational leadership component."

The CPED model encourages students to collaborate on projects, programs and practices to make educational settings better places for students, faculty and communities.

"Our practice is to inspire our Lynn students to 'break away' from the traditional, five-chapter dissertation and contribute to their respective environments in unique ways, together," says Kathleen Weigel, dean of the Donald E. and Helen L. Ross College of Education.

Weigel says it is exciting to watch students create valuable, relevant, practical work to be used in the field. "The students' ideas and results have been magical," she says.

Every faculty member trained in Apple technology impacts the learning of 80 to 100 students each semester.



Mike Petroski named Apple Distinguished Educator

Mike Petroski, director of faculty development and academic assessment, is an ambassador for educational innovation. His efforts in helping faculty and students make the most of iPads and Apple technology at Lynn and other institutions worldwide earned him the prestigious designation of 2015 Apple Distinguished Educator.

He joins a global community of education leaders recognized for doing amazing things with Apple technology in and out of the classroom.

At Lynn, he has played an instrumental role in the faculty's creative use of technology, increasing participation in faculty training by 92 percent; helped to grow the mobile learning program substantially; fostered a digital publishing culture that has led to a book-free campus store and helped ensure that 100 percent of the university's degree programs are powered by iPads.

"As Lynn prepared to introduce Apple's Challenge Based Learning (CBL) for the January 2012 mini-term, I trained the first group of 16 faculty members in CBL teaching methods," says Petroski.

After the overwhelming success of that pilot project, he expanded training to all faculty members in 274 sessions (to date) covering topics ranging from using the iPad in the classroom to creating e-books.

Petroski knows firsthand the challenges and satisfaction of enhancing teaching and learning on Lynn's campus. He has seen the iPad initiative expand from all freshmen in 2013 to all undergraduate and MBA students in 2014 to 100 percent of the campus today.



Joseph Ingles selected Outstanding Teacher of the Year

Joseph Ingles, assistant professor of business administration, says he was “completely blown away” that the student body chose him as the 2015 Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

“To be honored in such a way validates me and shows that I am doing the right thing,” Ingles says. “I only hope I can live up to the students’ high expectations.”

Ingles’ more than 20 years of experience in the construction industry brings a “real-life perspective to the classroom,” says Gregg Cox, vice president for academic affairs. “Students would much rather hear about something that actually happened rather than a hypothetical example contrived to make a point, so this makes his classes very popular,” he says.

Ingles claims he doesn’t do much more than any other professor: “Each and every one of us gives it all we have.”

Gary Villa is Faculty Member of the Year

Gary Villa, professor of biology and director of the Honors Program, earned the respect of his peers as 2015 Faculty Member of the Year. He was selected by the deans based on nominations from the faculty.



“The faculty at Lynn is made up of so many talented and accomplished people that to be singled out for this award is truly humbling,” says Villa.

After stints as a Russian linguist in the U.S. Army’s military intelligence and as a police officer, Villa went on to study biological sciences, earning a Ph.D. in biological studies in marine biology and molecular evolution at Stanford University. He won Stanford’s Excellence in Teaching Award.

“Dr. Villa is a true scientist and has continued to ‘experiment’ throughout his academic career,” says Gregg Cox, vice president for academic affairs. “Our students are benefitting greatly from the e-book he created that truly makes science come alive.”

Innovative ideas pay big dividends

More than 25 budding entrepreneurs stepped up to the plate, pitching their business ventures to a panel of judges for a chance to win cash prizes in the 2015 Howard Isaacson Innovation Challenge.

The competition—run by Brian Sommer, assistant professor of management—gives Lynn students, faculty and staff the opportunity to take their idea for a new product or business, research that idea, and develop a pitch to introduce it to investors and the marketplace. Now in its third year, the competition was the brainchild of alumnus Jeremy Office '11. This was the first time the Howard Isaacson competition was open to Lynn faculty and staff.

"I think that the program has the ability to be a cornerstone for the entrepreneurship program in the College of Business and Management," says Sommer.

Of the entrepreneurial-spirited group, 14 initial presentations, seven semi-finalists and the final four were whittled down to two winning concepts ...



Miguel Sonnack, Conservatory of Music master's student, overall and student winner of \$7,500 and six months of free rent space in the nearby Research Park, for his product SK5 speakers. For Sonnack, it's all about quality: "These are good speakers at an affordable price; you can't forget that quality is valued by people."



Chad Barr, associate professor of sports management in the College of Business and Management, faculty winner of \$5,000 for his product, Tab-Legs, a holder for mobile devices. "The inspiration for Tab-Legs was quite simple," says Barr. "I was fed up with holding the tablet while using it on the couch. After a few trips to Home Depot, I had a working prototype."

"My successes and failures in these ventures have allowed me to bring a more balanced point of view to the classroom and, in turn, made me a better teacher," says Barr.



Lynn's official colors are blue and white, but when it comes to sustainability, it's green all the way. The *Princeton Review* recognized Lynn as one of the 353 most environmentally responsible "green" colleges in its sixth annual "green guide."

Based on data from a 2014 survey of 2,000 four-year colleges concerning commitments to the environment and sustainability, Lynn earned an 83 out of a possible 100, and was named in *Princeton Review's 2015 Guide to 353 Green Colleges and Universities*. Taken into consideration were academic offerings and career preparation for students, campus policies, initiatives and activities, such as:

- Utilizing reclaimed water, rather than draining aquifer water, for irrigation
- Retrofitting water fixtures and lighting equipment, and replacing more than 7,500 light bulbs
- Building a new Central Energy Plant with a complete retrofit of campus air-conditioning equipment, boilers and water heaters, and other energy-saving measures
- Providing green transportation options for students, including bike rentals and UCar Share, a green ride program.
- Engaging students in sustainable practices through the Citizenship Project, such as waste sorts; trash cleanup of the nature preserve and its adjacent canals; re-landscaping with native, drought-tolerant plants and revitalization of Lynn's butterfly garden
- Offering sustainability-focused academic studies with a major or minor in biology or environmental studies
- Targeting LEED Platinum certification, the highest award for "green" structures, for the new Mohammed Indimi International Business Center

It's good to be green

Lynn launched its sustainability initiative in 2009 and continues to find innovative solutions to improve its carbon footprint.

What brought you to Lynn University?

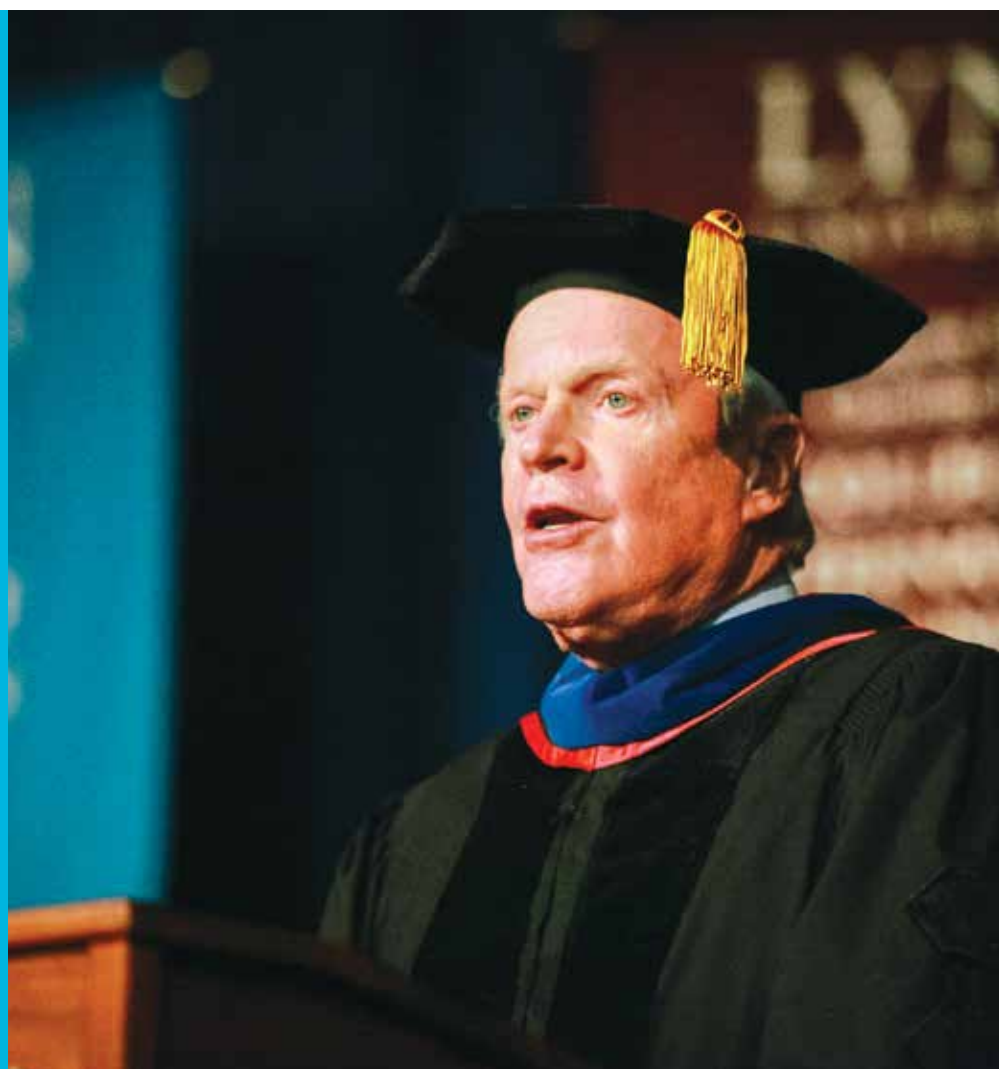
Kevin Ross brought me to Lynn. He was about the most exciting doctoral student I ever had. I came because of his leadership and technological advancements, but now what claims my heart is the culture.

How would you describe your teaching style?

My teaching style has changed since I got to Lynn. The use of technology is now so pervasive. You can't lecture. It's a waste of everyone's time. I turned myself into a Socrates. I learned to only ask questions.

A conversation with James Guthrie

by Sydney Putnam



Could you describe yourself in three words?

I would like to be seen as energetic, inspirational and principled.

What is your favorite way to de-stress?

To binge-watch television series on Netflix.
The Good Wife is my favorite.

What has been your biggest professional or educational challenge, and how have you overcome it?

I think my biggest challenge has always been to remember to treat everyone with dignity. That's harder than it sounds. During my undergraduate years, my peer mentor said "everyone is someone," and it made me think a lot about being compassionate and humble.

What led you down your professional road—childhood dreams or family guidance? Were you initially hospitality driven or politically driven?

I started off down a hospitality trail, but it was very quickly learned that everyone knew everyone too well. So, I reverted. I became a science teacher and high school principal.

But, the most important thing at that junction was the assassination of JFK—I was so proud to be an American—he was the first president I voted for. So, I changed my trajectory and resigned from my job. I went to Stanford to get my Ph.D., which changed everything. This is what allowed me to work in the White House, and I began working in politics.

“Lynn is a very special place. I taught at U.C. Berkeley, Vanderbilt, Oxford—I’ve seen higher education. But I’ve never seen a place as supportive and innovative as Lynn, and I think we are just seeing the beginning.”

Growing up was never stagnant for James Guthrie, professor in the Donald E. and Helen L. Ross College of Education. “I am from everywhere,” he says. Guthrie is fairly new to Lynn, but his wisdom, compassion and patience have already made him a vital member of the community. He founded the Language Power Institute at Lynn, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to facilitate English language fluency among non-native speakers of English. Guthrie holds B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Stanford University and did postdoctoral fellowships at Harvard University, Oxford University and the University of Southern California. Before teaching, Guthrie was manager of luxury hotels in Yosemite National Park, chairman of American Airlines’ board and presidential fellow for U.S. Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson and George W. Bush. He also was a White House speechwriter and principal author of the 1967 Public Broadcasting Act. Guthrie served as superintendent of public instruction for the State of Nevada; endowed professor of public policy and education and education school dean at the University of California, Berkeley; endowed professor of public policy and education at Vanderbilt University; and visiting Irving R. Melbo Distinguished Fellow at the University of Southern California.

What is something that people would be surprised to know about you?

I held the broad jump record at Stanford for five years.

If you could suggest only one book to all your students, what would it be?

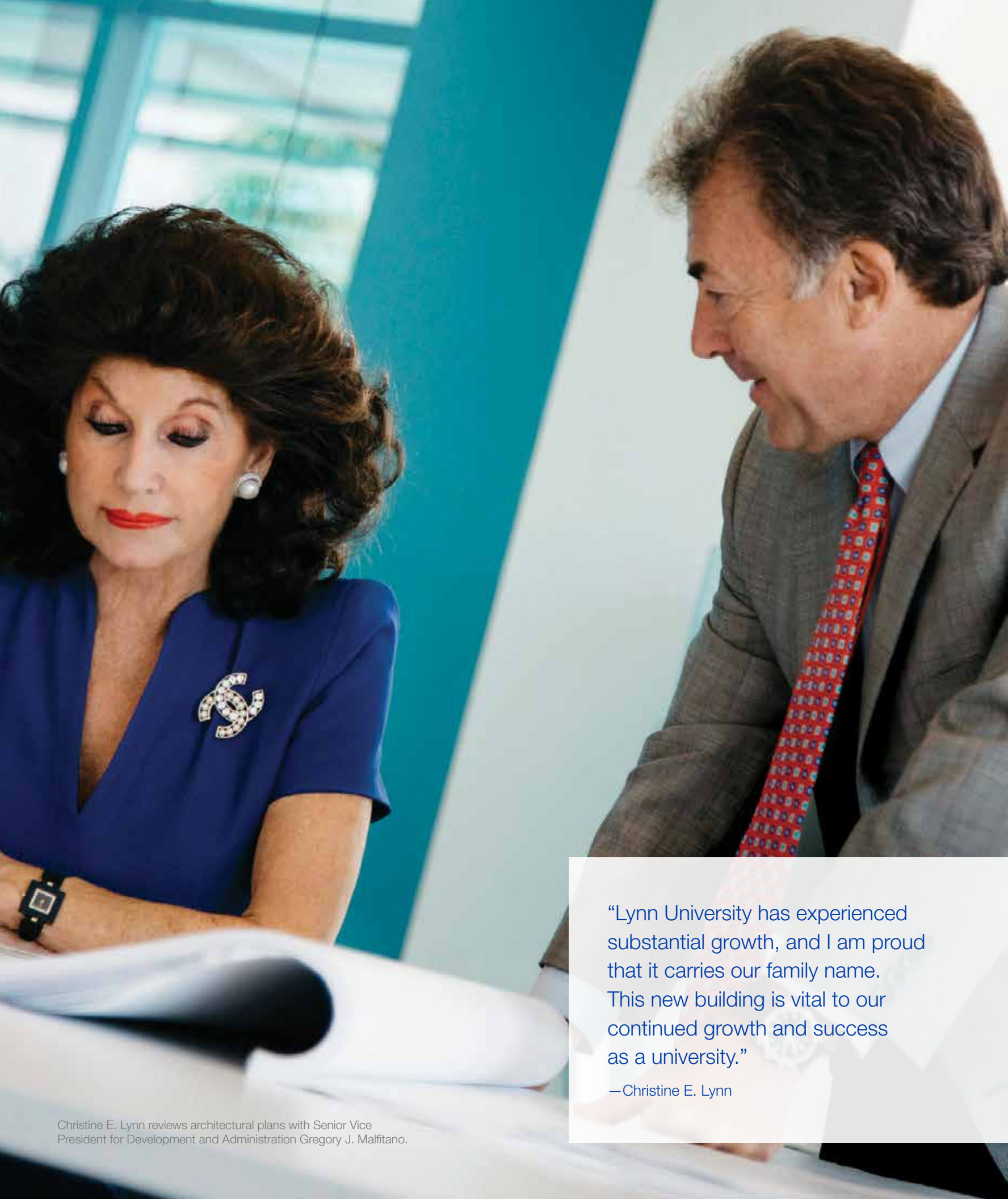
There is not one book I *suggest* they all read—I *make* them read it: *Washington Life* by Ron Chernow.

New university center



will transform the
heart of campus





“Lynn University has experienced substantial growth, and I am proud that it carries our family name. This new building is vital to our continued growth and success as a university.”

—Christine E. Lynn

Christine E. Lynn reviews architectural plans with Senior Vice President for Development and Administration Gregory J. Malfitano.

Christine E. Lynn's historic gift empowers Lynn University to accomplish its *Lynn 2020* strategic objectives two years early.

by Liz McKey

President Kevin M. Ross delivered a surprise announcement in the state of the university address on Oct. 21: Lynn University will have a magnificent new university center, thanks to a \$15 million gift from Board of Trustees Chair Christine E. Lynn.

Mrs. Lynn's gift is extraordinary in two regards: It is the largest in university history, and it propels total fundraising in support of *Lynn 2020* in the last 10 years to more than \$100 million.

"The Christine E. Lynn University Center will stand at the exact geographic heart of our campus," says President Ross. "And like a heart, this center will drive the pulse of our campus, enhancing the experience of every person at Lynn—students, faculty, staff, alumni and visitors. We are profoundly grateful to Christine for not only this incredibly generous gift, but also for her longstanding leadership and friendship."

A key challenge

Mrs. Lynn's \$15 million leadership gift provides others the opportunity to participate in this momentous project. Mrs. Lynn's gift will match every dollar up to \$15 million.

A legacy of giving

Lynn University would not be the institution it is today without the support of Christine Lynn and her late husband, Eugene M. Lynn. In the 1960s, he moved his company, U.S. Epperson Underwriting Company, and its affiliated company, Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance, to Boca Raton. Soon, he became a loyal friend to the university, then known as the College of Boca Raton. In 1974, he surprised then-President Donald E. Ross with a \$100,000 personal check.

"It was the beginning of a long and wonderful friendship," says President Emeritus Ross. "In 1991, we changed the college's name to Lynn University to reflect our academic growth and to honor the Lynn family. The university lost a cherished friend when Gene died in 1999, but Christine embraced their legacy and remains our strongest supporter."

Over the years, the Lynns have funded significant additions to campus (see "The Lynn Legacy" on page 20). In 1999, Christine Lynn became chair of the university's board of trustees. In addition to her leadership at Lynn University, she is widely known for her business acumen and support of healthcare and other education efforts. She is chairman of the board of Lynn Insurance Group and chairwoman of the Boca Raton Regional Hospital board of trustees. Her generosity has impacted virtually every charitable organization in the region, including Hospice by the Sea, the Florence Fuller Child Development Center, the YMCA and the ARC.

Asked about her motivation for supporting such worthy causes, Mrs. Lynn says she believes in "making a difference in other people's lives and supporting our youth, as they are the future."

In recognition of her service, she holds numerous honors, including the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the Rotary International Outstanding Philanthropic Award for Leadership and its Paul Harris Fellow Award, Signature of Life award from The Wellness Community, admission to the Gables Society of giving at the University of Miami, and the National Jewish Medical and Research Center Humanitarian Award. The Christine E. and Eugene M. Lynn names grace buildings not only at Lynn University but also at Stetson University, Boca Raton Regional Hospital and Florida Atlantic University. ➤



Christine E. Lynn (center) with President Kevin M. Ross (right) and Senior Vice President for Development and Administration Gregory J. Malfitano at the site of the future university center that will bear her name.



A 'true Lynn University building'

With her latest gift, Christine Lynn again leaves an indelible imprint on Lynn University.



A 'true Lynn University building'

With her latest gift, Christine Lynn again leaves an indelible imprint on Lynn University.

"Lynn University has experienced substantial growth, and I am proud that it carries our family name," Mrs. Lynn says. "This new building is vital to our continued growth and success as a university."

Adds President Ross, "The Christine E. Lynn University Center will be much more than a beautiful building; it will truly transform the daily lives of everyone on campus—especially those of our students."

The center's design is the culmination of years of preparation, beginning with the *Lynn 2020* strategic plan in 2005 and the *Campus Master Plan*, developed with the Gensler design firm and approved by the board of trustees in 2009. The latter was

based on university-wide input and addresses every aspect of the campus—from environmental and energy considerations, to parking and traffic flow, to pedestrian pathways and campus configuration (with residential, academic and athletic quadrants) to Lynn's distinctive architecture.

"Our approach is based on Lynn University's core values as a vibrant, energetic campus," explains Gensler Senior Associate Cliff Bollmann. "The goal is to drive an energy on campus and create a space where students want to be."

The center's design combines social and learning spaces that serve students day and night. A major feature will be a large central "living room" for informal gatherings and presentations. This area, envisioned for the center's northeast corner, will include expansive glass windows, allowing students walking by to see all the activity inside and be enticed to join in.

Preliminary architectural renderings by Gensler





The center also will be home to Lynn's award-winning 24-hour dining as well as other dining and common spaces. Additional components will include collaboration rooms, a campus store, a mailroom, a coffee shop, student government and activities rooms, outdoor patios and student affairs offices.

"It will be a one-stop destination for students to find services, food and other activities," Bollmann says.

The center, together with future residential spaces such as the newly announced Mary and Harold Perper Residence Hall (see story starting on page 30), will help Lynn increase student residency, driving campus density and engagement for the eventual enrollment of approximately 3,000 students.

Freshman and sophomore residents will live in existing residence halls close to the center of campus and the Lynn University Center. As students advance to their junior and senior years, they'll move to the new residence halls planned at the southern perimeter of campus.

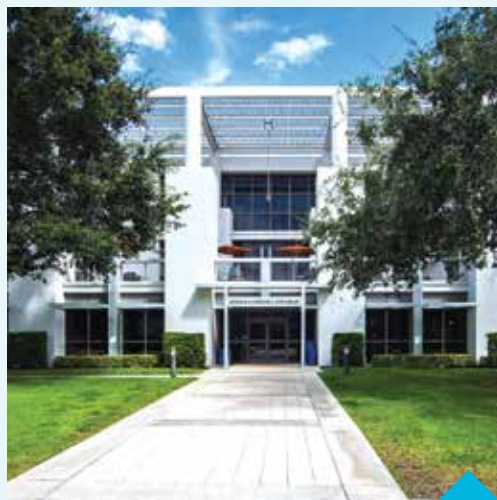
Connecting it all will be a new pedestrian spine, or pathway, extending diagonally southeast to northwest from the newer residential quad to the academic quad, with the Christine E. Lynn University Center at the heart.

The center's crowning element will be an inviting green space envisioned as a park dedicated to Mrs. Lynn. Here, future generations of students can gather to appreciate Lynn's outdoor beauty, the university center and, most importantly, the person who made it possible: Christine Lynn. Its design, now under development, will tell Mrs. Lynn's story—one forever linked to the university that bears her name.



The Lynn legacy

Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn's generosity is seen throughout the university, in capital projects, scholarships, faculty endowments, and academic, athletic and cultural programs. Facilities made possible by their donations include:



Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn Library



Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn Residence Center



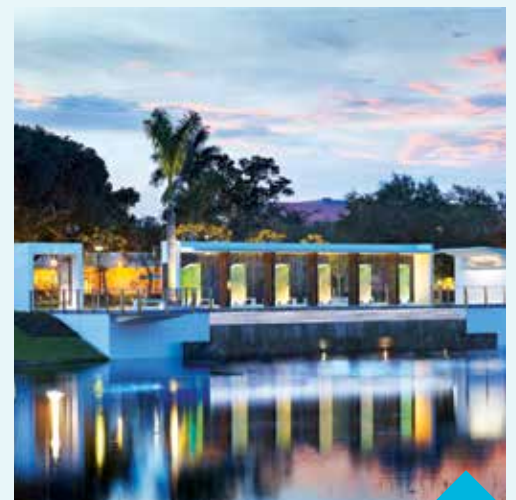
The Christine Room,
now Christine's market-fresh bistro



Christine E. Lynn Salon
in the Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold
Performing Arts Center



Christine E. Lynn Lobby
in the Mohammed Indimi
International Business Center



Lynn University Remembrance Plaza

College

For-profit institutions are shuttering campuses, and state universities are raising the cost of tuition across the country. But amid these trends, Lynn University is reimagining higher education.

This fall, the college launched iLynn, its new iPad-powered online learning program. The new bachelor's degree offering is affordable for more students and provides higher-quality content thanks to the use of mobile technologies.

The move is a natural next step for the university, which first launched iPads to students on campus two years ago. Since that time, Lynn has replaced expensive textbooks with free or discounted e-books, launched a university press to support textbooks for Apple products and built its own attendance and gradebook app.

Lynn has now extended these benefits to online students at significantly lower prices. The university has reduced the cost of its online tuition by nearly 20 percent to just \$8,850 per year. This is below the \$9,139 U.S. average for state university tuition reported by College Board for the 2014–2015 academic year. The affordable tuition opens doors for many adult and nontraditional students who may not have considered an independent college because of the perception that private equals expensive. >

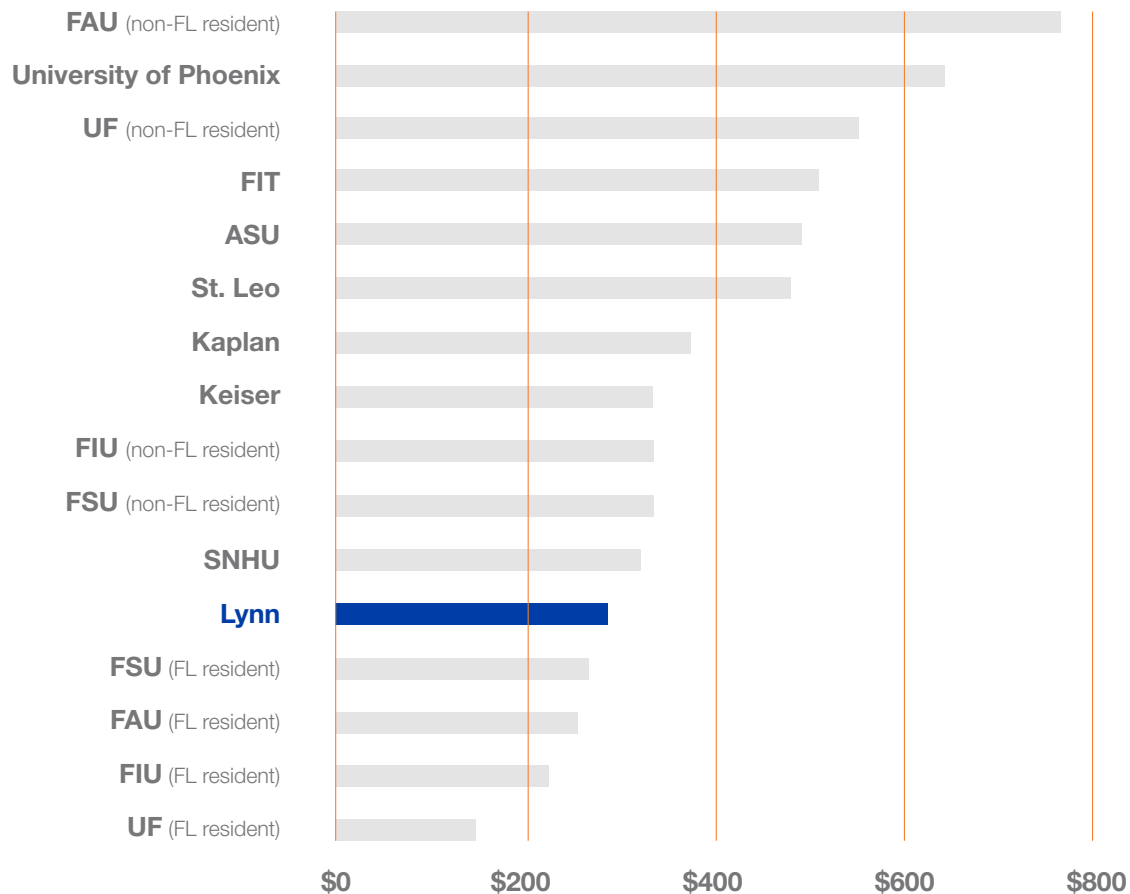


reimagined

New iLynn program provides private university experience for state university price

by Sherrie Weldon

2015-16 average* tuition cost per online credit



*Tuition rates reported here are averages and are based on completion of a four-year undergraduate degree. All tuition information collected was made publicly available online and is current as of June 2015.

Cost savings is only part of the equation. “We’re just warming up,” says Kevin M. Ross, Lynn University president. “The real story is about faculty adoption and the tremendous engagement given the program’s mobile nature and rich content, in and out of the classroom.”

The new iLynn program empowers adult students with work, family and other obligations to pursue their undergraduate degrees online, on campus or both. The program also offers accelerated terms, easy transfer of college and certified work experience credits and professional coaching for every student.

All of these benefits enticed Brian Bowser to enroll. Bowser, a Sodexo dining services general manager, is taking online classes in business administration. For him, the program’s flexibility is key. “It’s based on my schedule. I’m not limited to being in class at a set time and day.”

Lynn’s faculty is continually discovering new ways to use the iPad and Apple technology to teach and collaborate.

Katrina Carter-Tellison, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, explains, “This technology is allowing faculty to get out of the business of being the sole purveyors of content and knowledge. They’re able to collaborate with students and create something with them.”



For example, teachers use the iPad to help students better comprehend readings. Carter-Tellison says, “We haven’t changed the curriculum or the readings, but our approach is different. It’s more experiential. Now, students are experiencing the readings—whether it’s through apps, alternative videos or explanations by our own faculty. So there are multiple ways for students to understand and comprehend works.”

Word of Lynn’s successful iPad program has spread rapidly. In response to increasing demand for knowledge sharing and best practices among the educational community, the university has launched iPad Institutes. During these two-day seminars, Lynn faculty and administrators teach others how to use mobile



technology on their campuses, including how to engage and train faculty and plan for information technology infrastructure, deployment and support.

"Every faculty member trained in Apple technology impacts the learning of 80 to 100 students each semester," says Mike Petroski, director of faculty development. "We're looking to completely transform the way that students learn. The traditional way of a teacher in front of the room as a fount of all knowledge giving a lecture ... every study shows that is the worst way to be learning. By integrating iPads, we're trying to break that mold by fostering different ways to share information."

Since Lynn introduced iPads to campus, surveys have shown year-over-year increases in student satisfaction.

In fall 2014, **72%** thought e-books were more effective than traditional paper books (up from 65% in 2013).

In fall 2014, **92%** felt the iPad would allow them to be better able to connect with classmates (up from 79% in 2013).

The fall 2014 survey also showed that:

96% of students felt comfortable using iPad technology.

99% anticipated the iPad would contribute to their learning experience.

69% said the iPad influenced their decision to attend Lynn.

A sanctuary for all





The Snyder Sanctuary is a place where people from all faiths and belief systems can come for contemplative thought and spiritual exploration.

by Liz McKey

Snyder Sanctuary, Lynn University's newest building, stands in breathtaking contrast against the brilliant blue South Florida sky. Its seven massive, gleaming white walls are at once symbolic and sculptural. Leaning on each other, they represent the interdependence of all living things and create a spiral form repeated throughout nature. It's an ingenious design for a multi-faith structure at the forefront of an international campus.

"The Snyder Sanctuary provides an inviting space for anyone looking to connect with their spiritual nature, no matter their cultural background," says Lynn University President Kevin M. Ross. "As a school that has a high percentage of international students and that likes to say 'All Styles Welcome,' it's key that we have a place like this for our community." >



Inspired design

The sanctuary was the idea of Jamie S. and Stephen F. Snyder, lead donors for whom the structure is named. The Snyders are longtime and generous friends of the university, having supported the Snyder Idea Lab in the Mohammed Indimi International Business Center, the Snyder Scholar scholarship, the Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center and the Conservatory of Music.

Says Stephen Snyder, who is vice chairman of Lynn's board of trustees, "We intended the sanctuary to be both a place of refuge and a spiritual place that is set apart from the everyday world. It's a place for meditation, music, celebration and dialogue, unaffiliated with any religion, where students are encouraged to explore different beliefs and shared values."

Selected to create the sanctuary was noted collaborative design firm Newman Architects. Founder and project lead Herbert S. Newman designed two other Lynn University signature buildings, the Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center and the Eugene M. and Christine E. Lynn Library.

"Every culture, every civilization of which we are aware has not necessarily an organized religion, but a belief system that reflects a belief in our ultimately spiritual nature," says Newman. "We thought about how to reflect this reality and use it to bring people of all cultures together."

Symbolic elements

At the sanctuary's entrance is a labyrinth, an ancient pattern found in cultures around the world and used to quiet the mind, find balance and encourage meditation and insight. The labyrinth, like the sanctuary's walls, reflects nature's spiral forms. To walk a labyrinth is to follow a curved path to its center, which returns you to its entrance. Walking the path in and out can develop a sense of empowerment, spiritual insight and a new connection to yourself.

The sanctuary's walls, rising to 50 feet, are a marvel of engineering. Facing different directions and leaning on each other, the walls are a metaphor for how we as individuals need to rely on one another for support.

The concept of interdependence is an important one to convey to university students, according to Newman. "For the first time in their lives, they are out of the nest and on their own in college," he says. "The students are the same age, but often separated by their various backgrounds, and therefore a place where they can come and look into the eyes of other people and share a spiritual experience is a very special thing."

The sanctuary's 1,700-square-foot interior is designed expressly for that purpose. It accommodates seating for up to 140 people to gather for lectures, discussions, Conservatory of Music recitals and chamber music performances, and weddings and memorial services for members of the university community. Overhead, skylights allow ever-changing patterns of natural light to stream in. Triangular glass windows, translucent at the ground level to focus visitors' attention within the space, become more transparent as they rise, permitting views of the trees and sky.

An adjacent 2,000-square-foot wing comprises a lobby, lounge, preparatory room and state-of-the-art classroom. Here, up to 20 students can attend classes in Belief and Reason, one of three themes in Lynn's Dialogues core curriculum. In addition to being exposed to religious texts like the Bible, Torah and Koran, Belief and Reason students also study works by Aristotle, Leonardo da Vinci, Martin Luther King Jr. and John Locke.



For all faiths, always

In keeping with the Snyders' vision, the sanctuary will always be for people of all faiths, never favoring one creed over another. A governing body will ensure this guiding principle is followed.

As the Snyders state in one of three eloquent descriptions on the wing's maple-lined walls: "The Snyder Sanctuary extends a warm welcome to all."

Key facts

Donors: Jamie S. and Stephen F. Snyder, vice chairman of Lynn University's board of trustees (pictured below)

Design firm: Newman Architects, New Haven, Connecticut

Groundbreaking: March 28, 2014

Dedication: Nov. 12, 2015

Square footage: 3,700

Height: 50 feet





Mary Ann Perper and Gabby

Perpers help Lynn stay focused on the future

Always dedicated to improving the quality of life on the Lynn campus, Mary and the late Harold Perper have made a difference in the everyday lives of students for nearly 25 years.

by Joyce Shelfo

Their gifts are transformational, progressive and meet university priorities. The Perpers' love for students is visible throughout the Lynn campus:

- Mary Ann and Harold Perper Intramural Field
- Mary Ann and Harold Perper Grandstands at Bobby Campbell Stadium
- Perper Tennis Complex
- Mary Ann and Harold Perper Orchestra and Mezzanine Seating in the Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center
- Mary and Harold Perper Plaza
- Perper Mailroom
- Harold and Mary Perper Testing Center in the Institute for Achievement and Learning
- Perper Coffee House
- Perper Communication Center
- Scholarships and annual gifts



The Perper name can be seen in student-focused areas all over campus—from a mailroom and study lounge to an outdoor plaza and intercollegiate tennis complex ... and lots of places in between.

It was their custom to ask about priorities for Lynn at any particular time—and then proceed to provide for them. Their gifts all answered crucial needs outlined in the university's strategic plan, *Lynn 2020: focusing on our future*—a guide for Lynn's growth and development to fulfill its vision as a different kind of 21st century university—to be completed by 2020.

An initiative in the plan calls for the completion of the construction of Lynn's campus, including sports fields/facilities and additional residence halls. With the Perpers' help, an intercollegiate tennis facility was built and dedicated in 2010. The Perper Tennis Complex—the campus' first outdoor, lighted facility—was the critical first step in the entire athletics master plan.

Last year, their generous gift provided for the construction of the Mary Ann and Harold Perper Intramural Field, now a focal point as one enters campus through the west Potomac Road entrance. This pivotal project needed to be completed before Lynn could move on to another priority in its master plan—residence facilities to be built in the space the former intramural field occupied. >

[The Perper Tennis Complex](#) reflects the high caliber of play of Lynn's outstanding tennis teams. The women's team has had at least one first-time All-American every year since 1987, with a total of 106 All-American honors. For the men's team, 25 different Fighting Knights have earned a total of 70 separate All-American honors. Collectively, our men's and women's tennis teams have garnered seven national championships and 13 Sunshine State Conference titles.

When Mary Perper learned of the critical need for additional student housing, she did what she and Harold always did—[stepped up to help](#). She designated her most recent gift of \$8 million to construct the Mary and Harold Perper Residence Hall, the first of several residence halls to be part of a residence center.

Preliminary architectural renderings by Gensler



With a scheduled completion date of August 2017, the beautiful three-story building will house 170 students and reflect the Perpers' own warmth and caring. It will be designed as apartments, with several bedrooms adjacent to a living room and kitchen.

"The Perpers have made a series of key investments in nearly every facet of our campus, resulting in significant improvements in the student experience," says President Kevin M. Ross. "This incredibly generous gift toward the new residence center is a testament to their ongoing desire to put students first. We are deeply appreciative for Mary and her late husband, Harold. They have been big difference makers here at Lynn."

It's particularly fitting that their name appears on a building that serves as a home-away-from-home to students from all over the world, given their long, successful careers in the hotel business.



Residents of South Florida since the 1950s, the Perpers both worked as stockbrokers in Miami Beach and later owned and operated hotels in and around the Washington, D.C. area as well as at the New Jersey and Pennsylvania turnpikes. "We had Holiday Inns at almost every exit," says Mrs. Perper.

"During the time we were stockbrokers in Miami Beach, Harold's father started opening Holiday Inns in the D.C. area where he had his hotel business. As the business was expanding so quickly, he called us to come north to help. So we went up there part time in the mid-1960s to help build, decorate and manage the hotels until we retired in the mid-'80s.

"I decorated all the hotel rooms while Harold planned, built and managed them," says Mrs. Perper. "We were one of the first hotels to install blackout curtains, which were just coming in at the time. We focused on making our Holiday Inns places where single travelers or traveling families could be comfortable while they were away from home."

["We wanted to give to Lynn for student housing because we want to help build a place where kids feel at home while going to school," says Mrs. Perper.](#)

The Perpers moved to Boca Raton in 1978, where their name has become synonymous with giving. In recognizing their generous patronage to numerous community organizations,



Lynn University presented the Perpers with its Boca Raton Award in 2005 for their philanthropy, civic achievement, vision and leadership. In 2011, Lynn awarded them honorary degrees.

Born in Philadelphia and a graduate of Temple University, Harold died in 2014 at the age of 94. He and Mary had been married for 55 years.

“Harold was a wonderful man,” says Kevin Johnson, longtime personal assistant to the Perpers. “He was good to everyone and took good care of his employees. He liked to help everyone. In D.C., at Thanksgiving time, he’d have the local police department invite the underprivileged kids in the area to one of the hotel restaurants. He would have the restaurant manager tell the children that the dinner was being paid for by the police so they would respect police officers. He did not have a bad word to say about anybody, and he loved talking to everyone.”

Mrs. Perper continues their philanthropic legacy at Lynn. “It’s like a family at Lynn,” she says. “We always felt that was a good place to give our money. I just love everything about it.”

The Perpers are acknowledged for their continued annual gifts in Lynn’s Leadership Society and the exclusive E.M. Lynn Society that recognizes donors who have made cumulative gifts of \$1 million or more.

**The Perpers forever leave their mark
on the university they love.**

1st floor

double occupancy rooms
with four students to a suite

2nd & 3rd floor

five single bedrooms
in townhouse style

Amenities

BBQ, fire pit, laundries,
kitchens, study areas ...
to name a few

MEET THE A.D.

Devin Crosby joined Lynn University last May as its seventh athletics director. Most recently, he was deputy athletics director at Kent State University. He has also held leadership positions with other successful athletics programs at Northeastern University, University of Virginia and University of Houston. At Lynn, Crosby is responsible for fostering the learning and service-oriented culture for which Lynn's sports program is known.

What brought you to Lynn University?

President Kevin Ross' reputation as a visionary and early adopter, and the mission of creating an environment for student success.

How do you identify with the Fighting Knights mission of Spirit, Service and Strength?

The day I fell in love with Lynn was the first time I walked on its campus and I saw Spirit, Service and Strength banners, because that fits in perfectly with my core values to connect, serve and inspire.



What is your background?

I'm the son of a missionary and was raised in a very blue-collar working environment in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. My mother brought the sense of caring and compassion. So, I felt like I had a really nice combination growing up. My dad was a college athlete as well, so every man in my family was a student athlete.

What was your experience as a student athlete?

I was a sprinter and a middle-distance runner on the college track team: three-year all-conference and a school record holder at Slippery Rock University. And that's how I met my wife, Cindy. She ran for the rival school ... I saw this beautiful girl running laps around the track, and I went and flagged her down, chased her and caught her.

How does your experience as a student athlete help in your role as an athletics director?

Having been a student athlete, I understand what they go through and I can reflect back on my experience and be of service to them. I feel my purpose is to connect, serve and inspire ... Our No. 1 priority is student success and to educate the whole student; it's more than just sports ... We're going to challenge our student athletes physically and mentally, and we're also going to expect them to be great citizens.



Photo from left to right: Cindy, Reagan, Reese and Devin Crosby

Who do you consider the biggest influences or role models in your life?

I would definitely say my dad because of his work ethic and his ability to focus on what was important and weed out all distractions. My dad kept things very, very simple ... he would say simplicity is the best form of elegance. That's why I feel an alignment with Lynn's brand—because it's modern, it's simple, it's clean.

What is one of the most important big-picture accomplishments you're striving for in your first year at Lynn?

Relationships is the "new marketing" in this day and age of collegiate sports. So, it's important for me to connect with as many people as possible on this campus, outside this campus, but also, that our coaches and athletes to do the same. It's our goal to integrate our 230 student athletes into the entire campus community and not be a silo.

What do you look for in a coach on your staff?

Spirit, Service and Strength to me is not a tagline or a motto; it's our brand promise. It's how we operate as a group. So during an interview process, I try to find out the potential for a coach to fit into our environment of spirit, service and strength. I feel my job is to make sure that I'm a steward of our environment.

What's the importance of our facilities to our program?

They're our portrayal to the outside world—our front porch. Oftentimes, people connect with an institution through athletics, so it's important the front porch looks nice and there is spectacular curb appeal.

Our readers include alumni, parents and donors. Is there anything you'd like them to know from you?

I would like for every donor, every parent and every constituent of Lynn to experience a Lynn athletics event. They'll see that it's more than just a game—it's who we are as people; it's a family affair.

Migliano joins business faculty

Former Lynn Athletics Director Kristen Migliano '97, '00 is pursuing another passion of hers at Lynn: teaching. In her new role, she is associate professor of management in the College of Business and Management, teaching management and organizational leadership courses in the undergraduate and MBA programs. Migliano holds B.S. and MBA degrees from Lynn and a Ph.D. in organizational management from Capella University.

"I am honored to join such a distinguished group of faculty who are genuine teachers," Migliano says. "I am eager to connect with our students directly in the classroom."

While an undergraduate at Lynn, Migliano was a shooting guard on the Fighting Knights women's basketball team from its first year in 1993 to 1997. She was team captain in 1996–97.

After graduating from Lynn with a bachelor's degree in accounting, Migliano worked as a public accountant in the Washington, D.C., area for a year. She returned to Lynn in fall 1998 to work as student activities coordinator and pursue an MBA. From 2000 to 2002, she worked at Kforce Professional Staffing, placing CPAs and MBAs in corporate jobs. She rejoined Lynn in August 2002 as associate athletics director, a position she held until being named athletics director in 2006.

Lynn taps new coaches

Lynn University Director of Athletics Devin Crosby names new head coaches for academic year 2015–16

Left to right: Andrew Danna, Julia Huddleston, Adam Milewski





Kristen Migliano, third from left, at Bobby Campbell Stadium

Under her leadership, Lynn earned five national championship titles in baseball, women's golf, men's soccer and men's tennis. The Fighting Knights' winning record extended to the classroom, too. In 2014–15, nearly 71 percent of Lynn's student athletes earned a 3.0 or higher grade point average, and 44 percent received a 3.50 GPA or higher. Eleven student athletes maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA.

With Migliano's assistance, Lynn completed two major athletics facilities, the Perper Tennis Complex and Bobby Campbell Stadium. Also during that time, Lynn won the NCAA Division II Community Engagement Award of Excellence. The honor is awarded to institutions that successfully "build bridges" with their communities.

Andrew Danna, interim head women's golf coach

Also head coach of the men's golf team, Danna is the second Lynn coach to direct both a men's and women's program at the same time, joining head men's and women's tennis coach Mike Perez. Danna has shown great success in his three years as head men's golf coach, advancing to the NCAA Division II National Championship three times, with two national runner-up accolades. His teams have won nine tournaments during his tenure, including the 2015 Sunshine State Conference Championship. Danna earned a B.S. in business administration and professional golf management from Mississippi State University. He currently holds a Class A PGA Professional status. Before joining Lynn, he was head men's golf coach at Georgia Southwestern University.

Julia Huddleston, head women's basketball coach

Huddleston's former posts include lead assistant at Furman University for five years and assistant coach at Virginia Commonwealth University for seven. She holds a bachelor's degree in human development from Eckerd College and an M.S. in sports administration from Austin Peay State University. At Eckerd, Huddleston was captain of the women's basketball team for three seasons, and at Austin Peay State, she was graduate assistant coach for the women's basketball team.

Adam Milewski, head volleyball coach

Milewski joined the program in 2010 as a volunteer assistant to the head coach. He was named assistant coach in 2014. He also has coached hard court and beach volleyball at the club level. His graduates have signed at the University of Miami, Pepperdine University, Miami University, North Carolina, Tennessee, Appalachian State and Florida Atlantic University. Milewski holds a B.A. in sociology from Florida Atlantic University.

Fighting Knights score academic victories



Lynn captures honors for monumental year

The Fighting Knights' combined successes in 2014–15 earned two impressive honors: 12th place in the Learfield Sports Directors' Cup for Division II and the Sunshine State Conference (SSC) Mayor's Cup, men's division.

Last year, Lynn saw eight of its 14 athletic programs reach the NCAA Tournament, highlighted by the men's soccer program winning the school's 23rd national title and the men's golf team finishing as the national runner-up to NSU. Fighting Knights

women's golf claimed third place at the national championship, women's tennis finished as national quarterfinalists and men's basketball reached the Sweet 16 for the first time in a decade. Other programs qualifying for the NCAA postseason were baseball, women's swimming and men's tennis.

The Learfield Sports Directors' Cup, administered by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) and *USA Today*, honors institutions with the greatest success in collegiate athletics overall. Points are awarded based on each institution's finish in up to 14 sports—seven women's and seven men's.

Academic year 2014–15 was a year of celebration on and off the field. Not only did Fighting Knights teams earn national and regional titles, they scored impressive academic victories, too. Overall for the year, 71 percent of student athletes earned a 3.0 GPA or higher, and 6 percent achieved a perfect 4.0.

Women's tennis earned the highest GPA, with a 3.71.

3.5 or higher GPA: women's swimming, women's soccer, women's golf and men's soccer.

All women's swimming team members achieved a 3.0 or higher GPA.

Men's soccer remained on top with a 3.6 GPA and eight team members earning 4.0 GPAs.



**NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Lynn's 12th place honors were its highest finish since 2006. Lynn's previous top 15 finishes occurred in 1997 (8th), 1998 (7th), 1999 (14th), 2005 (12th) and 2006 (10th).

Grand Valley State University (Allendale, Michigan) claimed top Learfield honors for 2015. Other SSC institutions placing in the top 20 were Saint Leo University (8th), Nova Southeastern University (14th) and Barry University (18th).

The SSC Mayors' Cup is so named because it is sponsored by the mayors of nine communities where SSC-member institutions

are located. The 2014–15 honors are Lynn's first since 2005–06 and the third in university history.

In the men's division, points are awarded based on final regular season conference standings in baseball, basketball, lacrosse, soccer and tennis. Points are awarded according to a team's finish at its respective conference championship event for cross country, golf and swimming. Lynn's accomplishment is even more impressive given that it does not field men's cross country or swimming teams.



Hillel Presser '12 (right) mentors Kuda Biza '09, '10 in business.

Career Center connects students and alumni

With the start of the 2015–16 academic year comes a new program linking alumni with current students.

The Hannifan Center for Career Connections' one-day alumni shadowing program begins during the winter break in mid-December and runs through the January Term.

"The purpose is to expose students to specific careers and potential mentors so they get a taste of a particular area to see if it sparks a more serious interest," says Barbara Cambia '81, the center's executive director.

The program is the brainchild of Hillel Presser '12, a former adjunct professor at Lynn and asset protection attorney with a domestic and international practice based in Boca Raton. It provides motivated and ambitious students with the chance to trail Lynn alumni in the workplace for a day to learn about career paths and job responsibilities—creating connections with fellow Fighting Knights for possible future mentoring and networking opportunities.

A member of The Lynn University Leadership Society since 2009, Presser received his MBA from Lynn in 2012. His wife, Ashley (Martini), is also a Lynn graduate—receiving a B.S. in 2009 and an MBA in 2010.

"I've had the opportunity to mentor Lynn students ... those who I taught in class and who made an effort to stay in touch," says Presser. "I know how important a mentor is. I wouldn't have gotten to where I am today without one. Yes, it's important to have an academic framework, but maybe even more important to see things with a real-life view and build relationships. I like to say it's not who you know, but who knows you."



Lynn on the Road travels up the east coast

Lynn alumni stay connected to each other and their alma mater no matter how many miles separate them.

The 2014 Lynn on the Road receptions gathered alumni and parents in the Boston, New York and Washington, D.C., areas, where they mixed and mingled and caught up on the latest news from the Lynn campus.

The first stop was D.C.,

where Matt '99 and Betsy (Rodriguez) '02 Jaeger hosted fellow alumni and parents at the Florida House on Sept. 8.



Matt Jaeger '99, John Langan '81, Greg Malfitano '73, '75



Brian Susbielles '12, Jackie Munoz '08, Michael Shepard '10, Julian Palma '07, Ashleigh Fowles '09, '10



Donald E. Ross, Allison (Ebbin) Halpin '01, Kevin M. Ross



Sean Katz '11, David Cole, Mandy Harris '09, Jaclyn Cirillo '08, '10

Next stop was New York City.

Jim and Allison (Ebbin) Halpin '97 were the hosts at Providence on Sept. 10.

Last stop was Boston,

where Jose Duarte '95, '98 welcomed alumni and parents at his restaurant, Taranta, on Sept. 11.



Matt Roos '08; Kevin M. Ross; Jose Duarte '95, '98; David Gill '00



Jesse Redstone '08, Paul Troy '11, Jennifer Barrett '12, Jonathan DiMarzo '09, Britta Konary '07

Class of 2015 carries on the tradition

Each year, seniors give a small amount (usually representing their class year—\$20.15, for example) toward a class gift.

As a student-led tradition, the class gift impacts an area of campus that matters most to the graduating class. As their legacy to their alma mater, members of the class of 2015 have provided for the expansion of a popular outdoor gathering space known affectionately as “**The Pit.**”

Located between Freiburger Residence Hall and Lynn Residence Center, this attractive outdoor fire pit area includes seating and a bougainvillea-draped pergola. The class of 2015's contribution is the third to a compounding gift created by the class of 2006 and enhanced by the class of 2011.

The class of 2015 completed their gift prior to commencement, adding a tree bench and enlarging the space beneath the pergola. Thanks to their generosity, students for generations to come will enjoy this tranquil spot.



Annual gifts from alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students and friends are the backbone of giving at Lynn. These donations are the most direct way to create a positive impact on the educational experience that touches the entire campus community.



David Wichinsky '09; President Kevin M. Ross; Jennifer O'Toole '09, '11; Scott Plumb '09, '10

Annual giving makes a difference

Annual gifts support a variety of areas, including scholarships, renovations and restoration of classrooms, lab equipment (including microscopes and test tubes); and support immediate needs, such as computer upgrades, air conditioning and faculty recruitment.

Donations ranging from \$10 to \$25,000 per year enhance Lynn's student-centric environment. By making yearly contributions, donors help provide a critical and consistent stream of support for the university.

Whether donations support a college, department, project or program that is meaningful to an individual, annual gifts help today's students achieve their personal and career goals.

Every gift, whatever its size, is valuable and invested in our students immediately. **For the 2014–15 academic year, annual gifts totaled \$1.2 million.**

Alumni 'pay it forward'

Lynn alumni know how important it is to have financial support while in school. Many of them would not have been able to earn their bachelor's, master's or doctorates without it.

And so alumni have stepped up to "pay it forward" and created an endowed scholarship at their alma mater.

The Alumni Pay It Forward Endowed Scholarship supports first-year students in good academic standing with an expressed financial need—helping them to worry less about money and focus instead on uncovering their academic potential.

Close to 70 percent of Lynn students receive financial support. This alumni-funded scholarship is the perfect way to honor those who helped them in the past when they needed it while benefitting current and future students.

To date, alumni have contributed nearly \$40,000 toward the goal of \$50,000.

To give, visit give.lynn.edu/payitforward.

makes a difference

Melanie Mendez '14

By Liz McKey

For Melanie Mendez, the decision to become a cancer researcher was a personal one. She lost her best friend, Jeffrey, to brain cancer when they were both 6, and her mother, Lili Castellanos '79, successfully battled breast cancer several years ago.

Yet Mendez almost pursued a different medical career — dentistry. “I hated it,” she recalls of her brief enrollment in dental school in her native Guatemala. “Early on, I realized it wasn’t for me.”



Photo credit: Veronica Adrover, UC Merced

She reverted to her true calling, medical research, and transferred to Lynn University to major in biology. “I knew about Lynn because Mom was a student there when it was the College of Boca Raton. I also had visited the school and liked it.”

Mendez loved her time at Lynn, especially her classes taught by Gary Villa and Khalique Ahmed, both of whom she stays in touch with. “I asked for their advice when applying to graduate schools,” she says. “Dr. Villa advised me to choose a master’s degree that I was passionate about and to get more lab experience.”

Mendez found both in Georgetown University’s Tumor Biology master’s program. She was selected from a field of 1,000 applicants and worked in the lab of Dean of Research Robert Clarke, doing breast cancer research. This past May, she earned her Master of Science degree and was the student speaker at Georgetown’s Biomedical Graduate Education ceremony. She managed to keep the honor a secret from her mom until the morning of the ceremony.

“She was so excited and crying with joy,” Mendez recalls. “It was both funny and touching. Afterward, one of my professors told her, ‘That was the best commencement speech I’ve ever heard.’ ”

This fall, Mendez took the next big step in her education. She began her Ph.D. studies in quantitative and systems biology at the University of California, Merced, where she holds the Eugene Cota-Robles Fellowship. She’s working as a teaching assistant and conducting research at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

One day, all her hard work will pay off when she achieves her ultimate goal: working as a principal investigator with the National Institutes of Health or a similar institution. “Eventually, I’d like to focus on brain cancer,” Mendez says. “My friend Jeffrey had surgeries since age 1 and knew no other life than that.”

Does Mendez have any advice for students who want to follow a path similar to hers? “Stop trying to be normal, because if you’re normal, you’re forgettable,” she says. “Be that annoying person who calls professors you want to study with. Tell them you read about their work and want to be a part of it. Be someone who stands out.”

Melanie Mendez is proof it works.



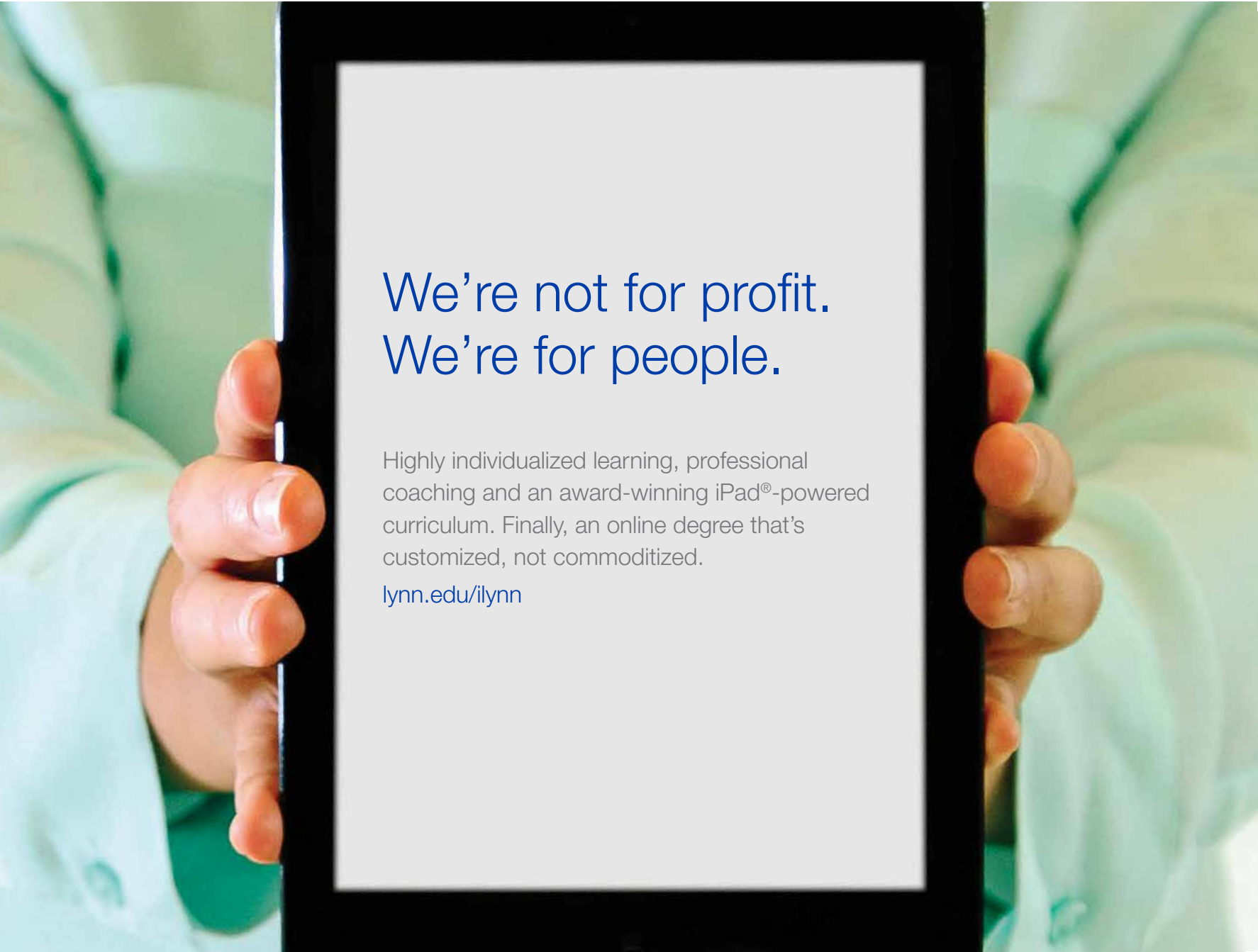
FAMILY KNIGHT OUT



Make your next night out a Saturday home game at Lynn University. Fierce Fighting Knight soccer and volleyball competition. Creative cuisine from local chefs. And a kid zone to occupy the kids.

Admission and parking are free, and ask for your fall sports game pass at the gate to receive a free meal for your family of four.

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